

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00456 211817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
HA-05 IO-14 /091 W
-----108746 212200Z /73

R 211703Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0184
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 00456

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EI
SUBJECT: PEACE LEADERS COME TO DUBLIN

1. BELFAST PEACE LEADERS WILLIAMS, CORRIGAN, AND MCKEOWN TRAVELED TO DUBLIN FEB 18 WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED FOLLOWERS AND LED A MARCH WHICH ENDED IN A RALLY IN FRONT OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN HEADQUARTERS. A DISAPPOINTINGLY SMALL TURNOUT FROM DUBLIN GROUPS -- ESTIMATES PUT THE CROWD AT ABOUT 1,000 -- WAS ATTRIBUTED BY MRS. WILLIAMS TO SHORT TIME LEADE AND THE CUTTING OF PHONE LINKS BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND NORTH BECAUSE OF THE P&T STRIKE.

2. THERE WERE A FEW MINOR SCHUFFLES DURING THE RALLY & SOME HECKLING. THREE SINN FEIN SUPPORTERS WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED. HOWEVER, IN THE MAIN THE AFFAIR WAS PEACEFUL. SINN FEIN HAD APPEALED TO ITS FOLLOWERS EARLIER NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

3. COMMENT: THE TIMING OF THE MARCH WAS UNFORTUNATE. IT TOOK PLACE DURING THE HIGH POINT OF THE FIANNA FAIL ANNUAL CONVENTION, AND ALSO DURING THE FRANCE-IRELAND INTERNATIONAL RUGBY MATCH. COMPETING WITH THESE EVENTS,
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THE PEACE LEADERS GOT VERY LITTLE ATTENTION OR LOCAL PUBLICITY, THROUGH A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS WERE IN TOWN TO COVER THE FIANNA FAIL AFFAIR. WE ARE REPORTING IN A SEPTTEL THE EXCHANGES OF CRITICISMS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER LYNCH AND THE PEACE LEADERS. SHANNON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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